

DOCKET NO.: AM100299 CON US/WYNC-0677
Application No.: 10/663,533
Office Action Dated: April 14, 2004

PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 26 and 33 to 52 are pending in this application. Claims 26 and 33 to 52 are rejected as follows:

- (1) claims 26 and 33 to 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph;
- (2) claims 26 and 33 to 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph; and
- (3) claims 26 and 33 to 52 are rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

Applicants are herein amending the specification to update the CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is introduced by the amendment to the specification.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

In the Office Action, claims 26 and 33 to 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for using the terms “eating disorders,” “sexual dysfunction,” “disorders of thermoregulation,” “sleep dysfunction,” and “neurodegenerative diseases” because each term encompasses conditions that are seemingly opposing. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because there is nothing unclear about what conditions applicants intend to claim in their method claims – those conditions known to be, at least in part, under serotonergic influence, namely neurodegenerative disease, eating disorders, disorders of thermoregulation, sleep dysfunction and sexual dysfunction (page 11, lines 15 to 17). Those skilled in the art would have no difficulty understanding what conditions are encompassed by these terms and, as such, the terms are definite. Applicants believe that the Office Action is not challenging the definiteness of the terms under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, but actually whether methods of treating these conditions with the compounds of the invention are enabled under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, which is addressed below. Accordingly, applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 26 and 33 to 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

In the Office Action, claims 26 and 33 to 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as allegedly being non-enabled, specifically with methods of treating neurodegenerative disease, eating disorders, disorders of thermoregulation, sleep dysfunction, and sexual dysfunction. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because the specification enables a person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and to use the invention commensurate in scope with claims 26 and 33 to 52.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of non-enablement, the following must be established by the Patent Office:

1. a rational basis as to
 - a. why the disclosure does not teach; or
 - b. why to doubt the objective truth of the statements in the disclosure that purport to teach;
2. the manner and process of making and using the invention
3. that correspond in scope to the claimed invention
4. to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent technology,
5. without undue experimentation, and
6. dealing with subject matter that would not already be known to the skilled person as of the filing date of the application.

Any rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for lack of enablement, must include evidence supporting each of these elements. Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has failed to meet its burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of non-enablement.

It has been consistently held that the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 requires nothing more than *objective* enablement. Furthermore, a specification that teaches how to make and use the invention in terms which correspond in scope to the claims *must* be taken as complying with the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, *unless* there is reason to doubt the objective truth of the statements relied upon therein for enabling support. *Stahelin v. Secher*,

24 U.S.P.Q.2d 1513, 1516 (B.P.A.I. 1992) (citing *In re Marzocchi*, 439 F.2d 220, 169 USPQ 367 (C.C.P.A. 1971). “[I]t is incumbent upon the Patent Office, whenever a rejection on this basis is made, to ... back up assertions of its own with acceptable evidence or reasoning which is inconsistent with the contested statement.” *In re Marzocchi*, 439 F.2d 220, 224, 169 U.S.P.Q. 367, 370 (C.C.P.A. 1971). In the instant application, no evidence has been provided of why the disclosure is insufficient or why the Office does not believe the statements contained therein. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the Office has not met its burden.

It appears that the Office is challenging the objective truth of the use of the compounds to treat the various conditions, and, in particular, the nexus between antagonist activity at brain 5-HT_{1A} serotonin receptors and the treatment of neurodegenerative disease, eating disorders, disorders of thermoregulation, sleep dysfunction, and sexual dysfunction. Applicants have provided procedures for two assays to evaluate activity of the compounds of the invention in the specification on page 9, line 1 to page 10, line 23. The first assay is the 3H-paroxetine binding assay, which assesses affinity of drugs for the serotonin transporter. The second assay assesses the agonism/antagonism at the 5-HT_{1A} receptor using [35S]-GTPγS binding to cloned human 5-HT_{1A} receptors. Applicants have also provided data on page 11, lines 1 to 8 to show that representative compounds of the invention have potent affinity for and antagonist activity at brain 5-HT_{1A} serotonin receptors. As such, they are useful for the control of various physiological phenomena, such as appetite, thermoregulation, sleep, and sexual behavior, which are known to be, at least in part, under serotonergic influence (page 11, lines 15 to 17). This nexus is recognized in the art. See, for example, US-B-6,169,098 (enclosed) showing 5-HT_{1A} receptor antagonists are useful in the treatment of eating disorders (obesity, anorexia, bulimia), sexual disturbances, sleep disorders, and thermoregulatory disorders (column 4, lines 23 to 32).

A lack of *in vivo* working examples with respect to methods of treating neurodegenerative disease, eating disorders, disorders of thermoregulation, sleep dysfunction, and sexual dysfunction does not automatically make a patent non-enabling. *Atlas Powder Co. v. E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.*, 224 U.S.P.Q. 409 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Additionally, 35

DOCKET NO.: AM100299 CON US/WYNC-0677
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PATENT

U.S.C. § 112 does not demand a “working example,” and an application cannot be fatally defective merely because it lacks one. *In re Long*, 151 U.S.P.Q. 640 (C.C.P.A. 1966); *In re Honn et al.*, 150 U.S.P.Q. 652 (C.C.P.A. 1966); *In re Bartholome et al.*, 156 U.S.P.Q. 20 (C.C.P.A. 1967); and *Ex parte Kenega*, 189 U.S.P.Q. 62 (Pat. Off. Bd. App. 1974).

Because there is a nexus between compounds having 5-HT_{1A} antagonist activity and methods of treating neurodegenerative disease, eating disorders, disorders of thermoregulation, sleep dysfunction, and sexual dysfunction, applicants respectfully submit that there is not a reasonable basis for rejecting the claims. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 26 and 33 to 52 are rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 22 to 28 of US-B-6,656,951. While applicants are not conceding that claims 26 and 33 to 52 of the subject application are obvious over claims 22 to 28 of US-B-6,656,951, applicants are submitting herewith a terminal disclaimer over US-B-6,656,951 to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 26 and 33 to 52 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

Conclusions

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims in view of the remarks. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (215) 557-3861.

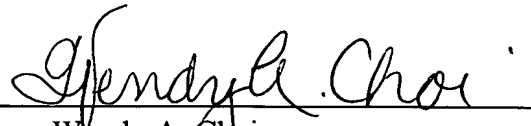
DOCKET NO.: AM100299 CON US/WYNC-0677

PATENT

Application No.: 10/663,533

Office Action Dated: April 14, 2004

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wendy A. Choi", is written over a horizontal line.

Wendy A. Choi

Registration No. 36,697

WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439